

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A computer module, said module comprising:.
2 an enclosure, said enclosure being insertable into a console;
3 a central processing unit in said enclosure, said central processing unit
4 comprising a microprocessor based integrated circuit chip;
5 a hard disk drive in said enclosure, said hard disk drive being coupled to said
6 central processing unit; and
7 a programmable memory device in said enclosure, said programmable memory
8 device being configurable to store a password for preventing a possibility of unauthorized use of
9 said hard disk drive.
- 1 2. The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a host interface
2 controller for providing a status of a locking device in said enclosure.
- 1 3. The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a mechanical
2 locking device that is coupled to said programmable memory device.
- 1 4. The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a host interface
2 controller coupled to a mechanical locking device, said host interface controller being coupled
3 to said programmable memory device.
- 1 5. The computer module of claim 1 wherein said programmable memory
2 device comprises a flash memory device.
- 1 6. The computer module of claim 1 wherein said programmable memory
2 device comprises a flash memory device having at least 8 Mbits of cells and greater.
- 1 7. The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a security program
2 in a main memory.
- 1 8. The computer module of claim 7 wherein said security program
2 comprises a code for storing a password on said programmable memory device.
- 1 ¹⁰
~~9~~ 9. The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a host interface
2 controller coupled to a solenoid that drives a mechanical lock in a first position to a second
3 position.

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~~10~~. The computer module of claim ¹⁰ wherein said solenoid also drives said
 2 mechanical lock from said second position to said first position.

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~~11~~. The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a real-time clock
 2 circuit coupled to said central processing unit.

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~~12~~. The computer module of claim 8 wherein said security program
 2 comprises a code for checking a time from said real-time clock circuit.

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 13. The computer module of claim ~~11~~ further comprising a battery coupled
 2 to a host interface controller that includes said real-time clock.

14. A method for operating a computer system, said method comprising:
 2 inserting an attached computer module ("ACM") into a bay of a modular
 3 computer system, said ACM comprising a microprocessor unit coupled to a mass memory
 4 storage device;
 5 applying power to said computer system and said ACM to execute a security
 6 program, said security program being stored in said mass memory storage device; and
 7 prompting for a user password from a user on a display.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said ACM comprises an enclosure that
 2 houses said microprocessor unit and said mass memory storage device.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising providing a user password
 2 to said security program.

17. The method of claim 14 further comprising a flash memory device for
 2 storing a desired password for said ACM.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said flash memory device maintains
 2 said desired password when power is removed from said ACM.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said flash memory device is coupled to
 2 a host interface controller that is coupled to said microprocessor based unit.

20. The method of claim 14 wherein said mass memory storage device
 2 comprises a code directed to comparing said user password with a desired password.

1 21. The method of claim 14 further comprising identifying a permanent
2 password or user code on said attached computer module.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein said permanent password or user code is
2 stored in said microprocessor unit.

1 23. The method of claim 21 wherein said permanent password or user code is
2 stored in a flash memory device coupled to said microprocessor unit.